

Campaign Against Cuts & Redundancies in Lothian

c/o Edinburgh Unemployed Workers' Centre,
103 Broughton Street,
Edinburgh EH1 3RZ.

Tele.: 031 - 557 - 0718

9th May 1991

Dear Brother/ Sister,

The response to Wednesday's one day strike has given this campaign a tremendous start. Well over 2,000 people attended the march and rally. The level of support on Wednesday endorses everything this campaign has argued for and we must continue to set the agenda in the way we have up until now.

The recent decision to Poll Tax cap Lothian Regional Council will have a devastating impact on jobs and services. It is therefore imperative that we establish links with other workers under threat to establish a broad based campaign to resist these attacks. The co-ordination of this work, along with our ongoing campaign against the first round of cuts, are two of the key issues for this Tuesday's meeting.

The next meeting of the campaign is on Tuesday 14th May, at 5.00pm in the Unemployed Workers Centre. The suggested agenda for the meeting is as follows.

To continue our on going success it is important that all those concerned attend the meeting. I look forward to seeing you there.

Provisional Agenda

- (1) Report backs a. Unemployed Workers Centre.
b. Citizens Rights Office.
- (2) Implications of Poll Tax Capping.
- (3) Developing a broad based campaign.
- (4) Publicity.
- (5) Finance and Affiliations.
- (6) Future meeting arrangements.
- (7) Any other business.

Yours fraternally,

Peter Hunter
Secretary

EXCERPT FROM MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES SUB-COMMITTEE ON
STRATEGY HELD IN THE REGIONAL OFFICES GLASGOW ON THURSDAY 6TH JUNE 1991.Urban Programme - Projects Terminating.(1) 27% Savings Exercise.

With reference to the minutes of 14th March 1991 (Page 828, paragraph 7) when the Sub-Committee had agreed the procedures to be adopted for making 27% savings on projects terminating Urban Programme funding in 1991/92 and the criteria on which such projects should be assessed and prioritised, there was submitted a report (copies previously issued) of 30th May 1991 by the Chief Executive

- (a) indicating that at the informal Social Strategy meeting held on 24th April 1991 with Divisional Community Development (DCDC) Chairs when proposals for savings prepared by the Directors of Education, Social Work and Consumer and Trading Standards and the Chief Executive had been discussed it had been agreed that the Chief Executive would prepare a figure of savings to be achieved by each of the DCDCs, based on proposals submitted by Departments;
- (b) comparing proposals for savings by the DCDCs as detailed in the DCDC minutes (copies previously issued) appended to the Chief Executive's report with the savings compared to the savings figures provided by the Chief Executive as detailed below:-

	<u>Savings Target</u>	<u>Actual Savings</u>
Argyll and Bute/Dunbarton DCDC	£ 23,880	£ 23,880
Ayr DCDC	£ 189,395	£ 187,042
Glasgow DCDC	£ 603,302	£ 604,136
Lanark DCDC	£ 223,905	£ 191,954
Renfrew DCDC	£ 224,876	£ 224,876
Strategy	<u>£ 8,596</u>	<u>£ 8,596</u>
Total	<u>£1,273,954</u>	<u>£1,240,484</u>

(c) advising the Sub-Committee

- (i) that the actual savings made by the DCDCs fell £33,470 short of the figure required to achieve 27% savings;
- (ii) that the Directors of Education and Social Work had indicated that within the package of savings proposed 17% and 12% respectively could be made without significant detriment to service delivery and that beyond those levels the Directors had indicated that significant impairment would result in terms of service delivery and loss of community resources;

and

- (1) the savings packages recommended by the DCDCs and the additional savings proposal by Councillors Lambie and Lawson, as follows:

Ayr DCDC

<u>Project No.</u>	<u>Title.</u>	<u>Further Savings.</u>
16/86	Hayocks Family Education Centre	£ 1,000
22/86	Community Nursery North Ayr	£ 451
23/87	Home Support and Day Care, North Ayr	£ 451
2/85	Bellsbank Family Centre	£ 451

Lanark DCDC

<u>Project No.</u>	<u>Title.</u>	<u>Further Savings.</u>
529/87	North Airdrie Debt Counselling Service	£20,000
1014/87	Pre-five Outreach Worker, Craigneuk, Wishaw	£12,000

- (ii) to refer the savings packages to the Social Work, Education and General Purposes Committees as appropriate for approval and to the Personnel Services Committee for their interest in staffing issues; and
- (iii) to instruct the appropriate Directors of Departments to make every effort to redeploy Council staff affected by the savings.

Proposals for Savings

3. The five DCDCs have now discussed the proposals (copy of DCDC minutes appended) for savings by departments and the recommendations for savings compared to the savings figure provided by the Chief Executive are detailed below:-

	<u>Savings Target</u> (Full Year Costs)	<u>Actual Savings made by DCDCs</u> (Full Year Costs)
ARGYLL & BUTE/ DUNBARTON	£ 23,880	£ 23,880
AYR	£189,395	£187,042
GLASGOW	£603,302	£604,136
LANARK	£223,905	£191,954
RENFREW	£224,876	£224,876
STRATEGY	£ 8,596	£ 8,596

Urban Programme Reference No	Title	APT	Term	Department	FY/Costs	Departmental Savings Proposals	Comments
9/87	Work with Women & Girls	North West Kilmarnock	3/92	Education	£ 24,200	£ 8,540	Ancillary budget terminated together with reductions to other running costs.
21/87	Community Resource Centre	North West	1/92	Social Work	£ 44,350	£14,835	Unfilled vacancy to to remain. Reduction in travel, subsistence and other project costs.
16/86	Hayocks Family Education Centre	Hayocks Stevenston	6/91	Education	£ 26,770	£ 6,580	Termination of ancillary budget and reduction in project costs.
15/86	Community Flat	Ardrossan	1/92	Social Work	£ 14,970	£ 500	Reduction to projects running costs.
2/86	Family Support Centre	Irvine APT's	7/91	Social Work	£ 61,490	£ 5,500	Reduction to projects running costs.
2/87	Volunteer Service Co-ordinator	Irvine APT's	11/91	Social Work	£ 14,760	£14,760	Project terminated.
2/85	Family Centre	Bellsbank	12/91	Pre-5	£ 90,230	£20,000	Education Department to review implications of savings and to discuss with local member.

After discussion it was agreed -

- 1) that the total savings proposed amount to £187,042 which resulted in a shortfall of £2353; and
- 2) to refer the recommendation to the Policy and Resources Sub Committee on Strategy for its consideration.

NCEACD123/JS/s

Urban Programme Reference No	Title	APT	Term	Department	FY/Costs	Departmental Savings Proposals	Comments
78/87	Braehead Family Link Worker	North Ayr	3/92	Education	£ 20,540	£ 5,970	Termination of ancillary budget, reduction in supplies and services.
5/86	Language Development Unit, Dalmillling	North Ayr	4/91	Education	£ 24,450	£15,350	Loss of one post and reduction in other budgets.
9/86	Infant Action Project	North Ayr	6/91	Education	£ 20,570	£20,570	Project terminated.
22/86	Community Nursery	North Ayr	1/92	Pre-5	£202,370	£35,012	Education Department to review implications of savings and to discuss with local members.
23/87	Home Support & Day Centre	North Ayr	11/91	Social Work	£110,870	£21,105	Reduction in ancillary budget, travel, transport and loss of one manual post.
13/86	Specialist Youth Activities	Kilmarnock APT's	10/81	Education	£ 18,320	£18,320	A motion was put by Councillor Lambie and seconded by Councillor McGeechan to terminate having defeated an amendment by Councillor Blaney seconded by Councillor Collins to support a reduction to the payments budget.

NCEACD123/JS/s

APPENDIX 1.

GLASGOW DIVISIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

URBAN PROGRAMME SAVINGS 1991/92.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT.

<u>Project Ref.</u>	<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Termination Date</u>	<u>Annual Cost</u>	<u>Proposed Savings</u>	<u>Savings Approved</u>
420/87*	East End Administration Support	1/92	£63,000	£19,978	£19,978
451/87*	Castlemilk ALC Development Unit	1/92	£24,410	£7,928	£7,928

* Joint-funded with Glasgow District Council

APPENDIX 2.

GLASGOW DIVISIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

URBAN PROGRAMME SAVINGS 1991/92.

CONSUMER AND TRADING STANDARDS DEPARTMENT.

<u>Project Ref.</u>	<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Termination Date</u>	<u>Annual Cost</u>	<u>Proposed Savings</u>	<u>Savings Approved</u>
430/87	Money Advice, Possil	8/91	£17,430	£4,706	NIL

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ARGYLL AND BUTE/DUNBARTON
DIVISIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF 23rd MAY 1991

Urban Programme

10. There were submitted

<u>Project No</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Savings £</u>
137/82	Wee Hub, Faifley	Nil
160/87	Clydebank Supported Accomodation Team	23,880 (Sept 89 Price Base)

APPENDIX 3.

GLASGOW DIVISIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

URBAN PROGRAMME SAVINGS 1991/92.

SOCIAL WORK DEPARTMENT.

<u>Project Ref.</u>	<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Termination Date</u>	<u>Annual Cost</u>	<u>Proposed Savings</u>	<u>Savings Approved</u>
D.358/86 X	Joint Housing/Social Work Project, Govan	10/91	£85,120	£30,840	£30,840
KM D.333/86	Community Work Assistant, Ibrox /Kinning Park	12/91	£14,000	£14,000	£600
KZ C.521/83 X	Pollok One Parent Group	5/91	£54,200	£16,700	£16,700
D.374/86	Sessional Staff Community Groupwork, South West/Eastwood	5/91	£9,080	0	NIL
D.427/87	Disability Resource Centre, South West/Eastwood	3/92	£85,870	0	NIL
D.421/87 X	Cambuslang Addiction Centre	4/91	£65,250	£11,165	£11,165
D.346/86	PH Information & Advice Centre, GEAR	6/91	£51,200	£3,870	£3,870
D.428/87 X	Re-Evaluation of Dementia Sufferers (REDS), Shettleston	3/92	£115,540	0	£22,490
*D.141/86 X	Joint Education/Social Work Project, Castlemilk	9/91	£160,280	£28,778	£28,778
D.227/85	Alternative Learning Project, North East/Strathkelvin	5/91	£51,410	£1,930	£1,930
V.A KZ D.439/87 X	Possil Home Support & Day Care	2/92	£69,800	£17,500	£19,754
**D.369/86 X	Community Work, Cranhill, Blairtummock, Queenslie	6/91	£77,230	£77,230	£61,632
D.137/86	Royston Home Support & Day Care	10/91	£88,190	£22,700	£24,954
D.149/86	Joint Housing/Social Work Project, Possil	10/91	£78,960	£1,200	£1,200
C.020/82	Yoker Community Care Centre	3/92	£44,090	£4,000	£6,000
C.579/83 X	Gryffe Women's Centre	4/91	£84,660	£30,861	£30,861
D.422/87	Homeless Young Persons Team, Glasgow Wide	12/91	£78,240	0	NIL

GLASGOW DIVISIONAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

URBAN PROGRAMME SAVINGS 1991/92.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

<u>Project Ref.</u>	<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Termination Date</u>	<u>Annual Cost</u>	<u>Proposed Savings</u>	<u>Savings Approved</u>
(Departmental Projects)					
JK 431/87 X	Adult Education, Cambuslang	01/92	£56,850	£14,730	£14,730
433/87	Detached Youth Work, Haghill	11/91	£34,180	0	NIL
47 435/87	Pollok Adult Learning	09/91	£34,500	£5,910	£5,910
136/86	Royston/Springburn Adult Education	05/91	£68,770	£7,180	£7,180
143/86	East Neighbourhood Adult Education	02/92	£45,560	£12,220	£12,220
373/86	Action for Youth Carnwadric	02/92	£51,790	£7,700	£7,700
260/86 X	Ethnic Minorities Project	04/91	£431,200	£103,760	£103,760
450/87 X	Co-ordination of FE Provision GEAR	01/92	£57,470	£57,470	£57,470
(Voluntary Projects)					
JK 071/82 X	Rutherglen Unemployed Centre	04/91	£79,930	£36,840	£36,840
556/83	Currie Hall Upgrading	11/91	£13,900	£13,900	£13,900
673/83	Pollokshaws After School Care	04/91	£56,870	0	NIL
JK? 681/83 X	ARGO Centre, Drumchapel	02/92	£19,530	£6,970	£19,530
451/86	Easthall Play and Recreation Area	04/91	- - Withdrawn - -		
565/83	Brunswick Youth Club	08/91	£13,750	£3,220	£3,220
505/87	Gorbals Organisation on Development for Youth (G.O.O.D.Y.)	10/91	- - Withdrawn - -		
1007/87	Creche to Assist Ethnic Minorities	01/92	£34,080	0	NIL
366/86	Peripatetic Creche Facilities/ Gorbals/Oatlands	08/91	£24,430	£9,876	£9,876
JK 364/86 X	Creche and Related Facilities, Drumchapel	08/91	£12,330	£12,330	£12,330
1016/87 X	Creche Facilities - Lochend/ St Leonards	02/92	£10,790	£10,790	£10,790
V421/83	Centre for Under-Fives	02/92	£26,000	£7,020	NIL

★ Project No. D.141/86 - Joint Education/Social Work Project, Castlemilk.

The Chair, seconded by Councillor Mackechnie, moved that the proposed savings of £28,778 be approved. Councillor Toppin, seconded by Councillor Walker, moved as an amendment that no savings be made on this project. On a vote being taken by a show of hands, 3 members voted for the amendment and 14 for the motion which was accordingly declared to be carried.

★★ Project No. D.369/86 - Community Work, Cranhill, Blairtummock and Queenslie.

The Chair, seconded by Councillor Mackechnie, moved that retention of one community worker be approved. Councillor Long, seconded by Councillor Marshall moved as an amendment that the retention of two community workers be approved. On a vote being taken by a show of hands, 3 members voted for the amendment and 12 for the motion which was accordingly declared to be carried.

(b) to recommend to the Education Committee the following savings in respect of Pre-five projects:-

Project No.	Title	Saving
244/86	Kirkshaws Pre-five Project	£8,251 - deletion of one part-time Home Visitor post and reduction in transport, supplies/services and administration costs
245/86	Plains Pre-five Project	£6,415 - deletion of playleader payments to voluntary organisations and transport costs, and reduction in supplies/services and administration costs
1014/87	Pre-five Outreach Worker, Craigneuk, Wishaw	£1,635 from supplies and administration costs

(c) to recommend to the Education Committee in respect of General Education projects

(i) that no savings be made on Project No. 223/86 - Detached Worker with Girls/Young Women, Hamilton; and

(ii) the following savings:-

Project No.	Title	Saving
531/83	Yett Community Hall, Newarthill	£6,170 - termination of project
££0 83	Bellshill Boys Club	£9,290 - termination of project
225 86	× Sikeside Youth Centre	£14,408 - deletion of one Steward post and reduction in administration costs

(d) to recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee a saving of £25,055 on Project X No. 470/86 - Area Co-ordinator, Blantyre Special Initiative, it being anticipated that Hamilton District Council will meet 50% of the costs of this post,

With reference to the minutes of 11th April 1991 (Page 987, paragraph 9) there was submitted report (copies previously issued) of 8th May 1991 by the Chief Executive with regard to the requirement to achieve in Lanark Division savings of £233,905, representing 37.12% of full year costs, on projects terminating Urban Programme funding in 1991/92, together with

- (1) a cost summary of the recommendations of the Evaluation Panel of this Committee;
- (2) a report of 30th April 1991 by the Director of Social Work on the implications of the savings for, and making recommendations in respect of relevant projects in, Lanark Division;
- (3) summaries of assessments of and recommendations on relevant projects by District Social Work Managers;
- (4) the regional submission by the Director of Education with regard to general Education and Pre-five projects terminating in 1991/92 and making recommendations for savings thereon;
- (5) summaries of assessments by and recommendations on relevant projects by the Divisional Education Officer; and
- (6) a report by the Chief Executive with regard to savings on Project No. 470/86 - Area Co-ordinator, Blantyre Special Initiative.

After full discussion and having heard relevant officials, the Committee agreed, in respect of projects in Lanark Division terminating Urban Programme funding in 1991/92,

- (a) to recommend to the Social Work Committee the following savings:-

Project No.	Title	Saving
529/87	North Airdrie Debt Counselling Service	£4,500 from transport and miscellaneous costs
235/86	X Activity-based Alternatives to Prison, Airdrie	£20,170 - deletion of one full-time and one part-time post leading to termination of project
472/86	Groupwork for Young People, North Airdrie	£4,000 from administration costs
575/87	X Monklands Disability Action Project	£17,000 - deletion of one part-time post and reduction in other staffing and administration costs
580/87	Community Project, Townhead/Langloan	£15,790 - deletion of one full-time Community Work Assistant post and reduction in administration costs
548/87	Kirkwood Kombination	£2,000 from administration costs
569/87	X Monklands Respite Care Scheme	£23,190 - retention of respite placement costs only
228/86	Springwells/Elm Street Neighbourhood Housing Project, Blantyre	£14,340 - one Housing Development Worker to be funded by Hamilton District Council
544/87	X Disability Rights Worker, Hamilton	£19,740 - termination of project

Suspension of Standing Orders

In terms of Standing Order No. 39 the Committee agreed to suspend Standing Orders to hear depositions in relation to the following item. The first deputation was heard from N.A.L.G.O. representatives, the second from representatives of community organisations whose projects were currently funded by the urban programme and identified for savings during 1991/92.

Urban Programme Terminating Projects 1991/92

With reference to the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee of 18th March 1991 (Page 828, paragraph 7) when criteria, procedures and timetable were approved for the adoption of Urban Programme savings on projects terminating during 1991/92, there were submitted relevant reports (copies previously issued) as undernoted.

- 1) of 30th April 1991 by the Director of Social Work outlining the approach adopted by the Department of Social Work to contribute to the divisional savings of 27% on urban programme terminating projects 1991/92; and
- 2) of May 1991 by the Divisional Education Officer identifying projects for departmental savings as part of the aforementioned exercise.

After considerable discussion and having noted

- a) the observations of the N.A.L.G.O. and community representatives; and
- b) that Project No. 636/85 Barrhead Unemployed Workers Centre had been included in the list of terminating projects 1991/92 because the Industry Department for Scotland had indicated its intention not to support the project beyond 1991,

the Committee agreed savings as detailed below:

<u>Project No</u>	<u>APT</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Full Year Costs</u>	<u>Financial Savings Full Year</u>	<u>% Savings</u>	<u>Number of Jobs Lost</u>	
Department of Education							
283/86	X	Moorpark	Child + Family Centre	£ 60,040	£ 7,091	11.81%	0
696/87		Foxbar "Rivers"	Parental Support	68,230	2,900	4.25%	0
282/86		Ferguslie Park	St Ninian's Project	34,940	2,330	6.67%	0
688/87		Moorpark	Women's Involvement	24,690	2,000	8.10%	0
562/83		Bow Farm	Community Workshops	47,930	2,000	4.18%	0
696/83		Johnstone West	Howwood Road Hut	4,060	NIL	-	0
284/86	X	Ferguslie Park	Play Project	54,300	54,300	100.00%	3
SUB-TOTALS			£294,090	£ 70,621	24.01%	3	

Department of Social Work - Inverclyde District

686/87	Sev Farm	Community IT Workers	42,590	3,810	8.95%	0
295/86	Kelburn/Woodhall {					
	a Gleshill {	Lone Parent Initiative	24,200	9,708	28.39%	0
561/83	Larkfield	C R I S	70,000	20,152	28.79%	0
703/87	District-wide	Music Project	19,070	1,035	5.43%	0
392/86	Kelburn/Woodhall {	Community Health				
	a Gleshill {		48,690	48,690	100.00%	0
SUB-TOTALS			214,850	83,395	38.87%	0

Department of Social Work - Renfrew District

294/86	Ferguslie Park	Flexicare	109,170	4,000	3.66%	0
312/86	Johnstone West	Resource Worker	23,580	5,940	25.19%	0
704/87	District-wide	Renfrew Substance Abuse	102,060	20,000	19.60%	1
636/83	Moorspark	Renfrew Unemployed Workers Centre	16,360	Nil	-	0
629/83	District-wide	Paisley Unemployed Workers Centre	31,490	20,000	38.84%	1
636/85	Dunferlie	Barrhead Unemployed Workers Centre	20,920	20,920	100.00%	1
SUB-TOTALS			233,580	70,860	21.90%	3
TOTALS			232,220	224,876	27.93%	4

Can you HELP resist these Cuts by contacting groups affected on the Lists, or by phoning a friend who might have local knowledge.

Although most of the cuts are to budgets, & with a few exceptions, posts, these projects & others may be earmarked for future more drastic action on the next anticipated round of cuts to the service (as opposed to the bureaucratic/managerial) end of local govt. funded community projects.

In addition, news of cuts to teaching - relief teachers for example, & manual sections of the District & Region would be appreciated.

Come to the meeting or phone any of the numbers listed.

Thanks.

THE LOTHIAN ANTI - CUTS Broadsheet

**UNITE
STRUGGLE
RESIST THE CUTS**

JUNE 91

YE CANNY PUSH YER GRANNY AFF THE BUS



Lothians' Labour Administration are grappling with their collective conscience on how to implement a Tory imposed budget cut of £18.5 million. Options already leaked to the press suggest that the regions "free concessionary fare scheme" tops the list for axing. Yet just over a year ago the same Councillors sought a return to office based, among other things, on their party's commitment to continue with it's popular free travel scheme for elderly, registered blind and disabled people.

With forty four million passenger journeys per year, nobody seriously doubts that the scheme is popular, effective and, since it is not means tested, cheap and simple to administer. If labour decides to ditch it's manifesto promise on the altar of Tory Scottish Office dic-tat we will all suffer. The pensioners will lose free travel and the public will lose many registered bus journeys because, faced with a flat rate charge of between twenty and thirty pence per trip, the elderly will not travel in anything like today's passenger figures. Estimates of the drop in journeys vary, however it would not be scaremongering to predict a fall of over thirty per cent. Translated into cash this drop will lose Lothian Bus

CLOSURE OF CITIZENS RIGHTS OFFICE

Last Friday, CRO closed its doors to the public after 20 years of providing an independent rights advice service to the people of Lothian. Our public advice sessions have had to close for the time being, to avoid taking on more and more cases. Other voluntary advice services are already hard-pressed to cope with the ever increasing demand for information and advice on welfare rights; they cannot take on the specialist areas of CRO's advice service, in housing, employment, and race and immigration, or its information, training and campaigning activities.

This decision was forced on us by the total withdrawal of funding by Lothian Regional Council, in spite of a recommendation from the Social Work Department that grant aid should continue. The funding cut came out of the blue, as part of the Region's £20 million cuts package designed to avoid poll-tax capping - a ploy which did not impress Ian Lang, who is now demanding another £18.5 million of cuts.

Rather than challenge the government's right to overturn local democracy by forcing a reduction in the poll tax, the Labour Group are setting about making further cuts. They claim that they are trying to save jobs - but the 7 workers at CRO are already facing imminent redundancy; no offer of redeployment has been made by the Council - in fact, there has been no contact at all since the decision was made, either about the workers, or about the fate of the 250 people whose cases are being dealt with by CRO.

However, in the case of CRO, financial pressure is a pretext which is being used to justify the Council's decision - they are planning to spend far more on opening a new council-run advice shop than is being 'saved' by closing down CRO. This week the Social Work Committee will be asked to approve 8 new posts, mostly at lower grades than the jobs in CRO, to enable the shop to open. This should not be tolerated, at a time when massive cuts are being planned for existing services, including further job losses.

MODEL RESOLUTION

The campaign has produced the following model resolution. If our efforts to mount a powerful campaign are to be successful it is important that the issue of cuts and redundancies is discussed in every community group, workplace meeting or union branch. If you and your colleagues agree that the cuts should be opposed, it is important that you adopt this resolution and act in support of the campaign. The resolution is as follows.

This union branch/ shop stewards committee etc. condemns the Labour controlled Lothian Regional Council for implementing Tory cuts, and calls for the immediate withdrawal of the decision to cut a total of £38.5 million from the Council budget.

In support of this position this union branch/ shop stewards committee calls on the union's Regional Committee to:

- (a) Work alongside other unions in organising a joint rank and file conference to build the fightback against the cuts.
- (b) To link up with other unions to organise joint strike action against all cuts.
- (c) Finally, this union branch/ shop stewards agrees to affiliate to the Lothian Campaign Against Redundancies and Cuts.

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

POLLING DAY

HACKNEY AGAINST THE CUTS

NUMBER TWO.
SUMMER 1991.



HACKNEY AGAINST THE CUTS

Since the last issue of 'Hackney against the cuts' in March our worst fears have been confirmed. Following the half-day strike on March 6th there has been no follow up action & nothing appears to be planned for the future. The leadership of the Joint Shop Stewards Committee have refused to try & increase the resistance against cuts in local services & have, once again, returned to their monthly discussion meetings with McCafferty at which they have no strategy to oppose what the Labour council is doing in Hackney, never mind the Tories at national level.

The resistance by workers at Marsh Hill Old People's Home collapsed the day after the strike. Meanwhile the council refused to budge over Mentmore Industries for the disabled, it has forced through massive increases in nursery fees including charging unemployed parents £5 per child, it has used its highly paid & relatively new friendship with the police to attack squatters and there are now rumours that it intends to sell, or rather give away, a number of estates to housing associations.

This bulletin, which we hope can be a forum for discussion & activities by all those who are concerned about what is happening within Hackney includes articles on cuts in education, cuts in the voluntary sector, cuts in housing, attacks on squatters, the councils friendly relationship with the police, as well as a call by Councillor Tom Silverlock for the development of a new forum for the left, socialists/trade unionists/unemployed in Hackney.

We hope to be able to publish every 3 months (a minimum, we hope!) and articles, photographs, comments, letters are welcome. Send them to:- 'Hackney Against the Cuts', Box No 1, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

We hope to help unite all those who want to fight for a better Hackney through the involvement of the mass of workers, tenants, students, squatters and unemployed. Strike action must be a key to this and will need linking up with others across Britain. Lastly, thanks to everyone who helped produce this magazine & hopefully more will help next time!



The closure of Marsh Hill Old Peoples Home was part of the continuing destruction of Local Government jobs & services.

Hackney Against the Cuts, Box Number 1,
136 Kingsland High Street, London E8.
Phone:- 081 533 5506 (Tom or Pam) or
071 254 4815.(Mark)

WHICH WAY FORWARD?

A STATEMENT OF INTENT - BY COUNCILLOR TOM SILVERLOCK.

While it is true that there have been some fightbacks against cuts in the Council, and it is true that these were indeed heroic in their own way, they have not really ended the continual onslaught on local government services that has been and is taking place in Hackney by the local councillors, whether Labour or otherwise.

There is definitely a need for a new approach, a gathering of those forces that have proved themselves in the struggles that have taken place in the last few years, and a complete re-evaluation of the enemy, its scope and power. In my view the enemy has swelled its ranks over the last few years & consolidated its power.

Any fighting left that did exist within the local Labour Parties has effectively been destroyed & demoralised while there has been a resurgence of anarchistic politics on the left with its rhetoric & activity attracting active but desperate working class socialists who are becoming more estranged from the traditional left currents that existed in the Labour Party, Militant and the SWP. All these groups only help to make the left a murky uninviting mire that it is, confusing & dividing working class activists.

There is a need therefore to create some kind of forum that challenges the established left, that unites some of those anarchistic elements that have developed over the last few years & have a progressive orientation to the working class and their organisations, some Trotskyist elements that have proved their metal in the past and independents who cannot claim to be either.

The potential for such a forum to exist in Hackney is not only great but absolutely necessary & it is a Labour Councillor, a revolutionary Trotskyist & a working class socialist who has been involved in many campaigns & struggles in the last few years that I call for such a forum to develop in Hackney.

A statement of intention of such a forum will be completed in the near future which all activists must read and decide whether to participate or not. While those sectarians may not see the necessity of such a forum, it is that which makes them sectarian. The left must no longer be divided as we do not only have to contend with the Capitalist ruling class, and its state but also its agents whose ideals and method have infected the left and is festering like a cancerous growth.

Interested? Then contact Hackney Against the Cuts and we can begin the discussion.



CUTTING BACK ON EDUCATIO

After numerous letters to staff and parents denying cuts, Hackney Education Directorate & Hackney Council finally admitted they had been planning to cut school teaching posts. Strike action on March 6th, together with much publicity, persuaded the Directorate to reconsider. They offered to:-

- (a) Restore 30 TAAN's (Teachers above authorised numbers) in secondary schools.
- (b) Restore 44 curriculum & organisation posts in primary schools.
- (c) Restore the school incentive allowances.

This was achieved at the expense of 20 curriculum support posts, advertising, and the heads & deputies discretionary pay rise.

Other cuts in the education budget are still in place. These include:-

- * School meals rising 20 pence a day.
- * Cuts in support staff.
- * Up to 50% cuts in cleaning and maintenance. (services which are already at a minimal level.)
- * A worsened TAF (the ratio of teachers to students) level to 1:30 in primary schools,
1:20.9 in secondary schools and 1:13.5 in the age group 16 to 19.

The worsening of TAF has meant a reduction of 60 teaching jobs & resulted in larger classes.



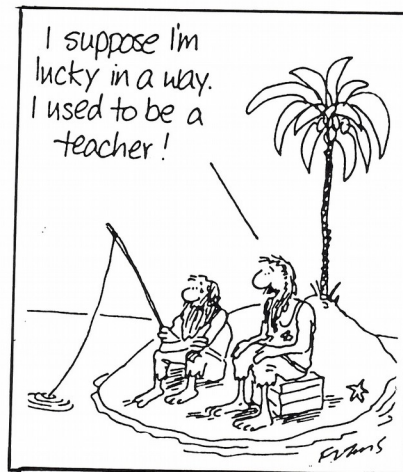
Schools in Hackney are at present receiving their staffing levels for next year based on rolls (student numbers) a year old. This means that schools with rising rolls will experience further increases in class size.

(continued)

The prospects for delivering a quality education service in Hackney will be severely undermined if this situation continues. With local management of schools just around the corner, further cuts & job losses are likely as has been seen in other parts of the country last year.

A fighting campaign across the education unions will be needed to restore these cuts & to prevent further attacks on jobs & the education service as a whole. Trade Union activists must organise & build for strike action to defend the education service while it is still worth defending.

A. French, NUT. (personal capacity.)



Further education

Cuts in the Further Education sector include over £1 million from the Hackney College budget, an imposition of a 18% staff vacancy rate (though there are no vacancies at the moment) & a vicious increase of fees for unemployed students on benefits, from £4.50 per annum & £1 per exam to £25 per annum, plus £5 for materials, and £20 for exams.

By a NALGO steward at Hackney College.

ROBBING THE POOR !!

Speaking on behalf of single parents in Hackney my reaction to the new £5 a week nursery fee for my child is one of despondency. I am very hard pressed to find this money out of my already inadequate income of £60.50 a week. However much I love my child, the bills must be paid & the stomach needs filling - this is already difficult enough.

I feel the additional stress of trying to creatively employ my bright & active child at home on top of the financial stress of life would be damaging to myself and my child. Children need other children & a structured safe, happy and nourishing environment, with facilities I could never hope to provide at home.

The child care facilities we have been fortunate enough to benefit from have saved me from a possible breakdown and my child from probable abuse. If these facilities are removed then I can only see:-

1. Wasted Lives.
2. Deterioration in family relationships.
3. Increased child abuse.
4. Poor social skills in pre-school age kids
5. Diminished intellectual ability.
6. Failed cost efficiency due to a likely increase in demand for child guidance, social workers, care orders, court costs etc...

Need we further damage our already poor reputation for child care in Europe? This is a false economy and social myopia. Reverse the fee increases.

By a secretary of Community Nursery.

THE COUNCIL & THE COPS

One local 'service' which is not under attack from either central or local Government is the police. Why?

Through most of the 1980's Hackney Labour Council played an important part in campaigning against police abuses of power in the borough, and for an accountable Metropolitan police force. In the 1990's councillors are most definitely siding with the police against the people who elected them into office.

Hackney Council was the first London borough to set up a police committee in the Summer of 1982. Full support was given to the Roach Family Support Committee following Colin Roach's death in January 1983. The Council went so far as to vote to refuse to pay the police precept in opposition to Colin's death & the police's attitude to the Colin Roach campaign. The council provided a substantial amount of money to help the Family & friends of the Trevor Monerville campaign get off the ground after Trevor had emergency brain surgery after being held in Stoke Newington police station in January 1987.

In general, the council took a firm & principled position against police injustice & placed its resources firmly alongside the people of Hackney who suffered at the hands of the police. Their policy was best illustrated by their attempts to set up a democratically controlled police liaison committee & their refusal to participate in the stooge Hackney Police Community Consultative Group, one of the groups set up by the police across London as a public relations office.

Two events in the spring of 1988 pointed to a change in direction by the Labour council. In March, a non-eviction policy against squatters was reneged upon with mass eviction of over 100 squats on the Stamford Hill estate. 100 police officers were used by the council to back up the bailiffs. In April, deputy Labour Party leader, Roy Hattersley, visited Hackney to launch the council's "A Charter for Better Policing." At the time the Labour Party was trying to 'mend' its relations with the police after senior police officers had questioned whether the police could work with a Labour Government. Hattersley advised the council to stop knocking the police & participate in the consultative group.

During the past 3 years Hackney Labour Party has slowly but surely drifted to the right. The radicalism associated with the GLC years has been replaced by the realpolitik of a Labour Party which has capitulated to Thatcherism.

If we look at the Labour Council's present attitude to the police we find that it is determined by their need to use the police to control anti-poll tax demonstrations and protests against council policies. Their decision, made last October, to join the consultative group does not represent an attempt by the council to exert pressure on the police. The simple fact is that the council cannot criticise police injustice one day and expect them to turn out & support them the next.





Hackney Labour Council's U-turn came in a year (1990) when Hackney Community Defence Association dealt with 69 cases of police injustice in the borough. Already in 1991 the police have attacked peaceful Turkish and Kurdish strikers and justified their actions with wild allegations about "anarchist agitators" and "mobs threatening to storm Stoke Newington police station. The Labour council's decisions to give their support to the police will contribute to the marginalisation of protest in the borough, and strengthens the police's power immeasurably.

Graham Smith, Hackney Community Defence Association.

HOUSING:- COUNCIL ATTACKS SQUATTERS & HOMELESS

Hackney Council plan to evict over 3,000 people from all of it's squatted properties by April 1992. Rather than challenging illegal occupants through the courts, as is normally the case, the council now serves PIO (protected intending occupiers) notices on squatters. This legislation is used as a safeguard against squatters moving into premises already allocated to someone else.

By getting people off the homeless waiting list to sign up tenancy agreements the council can legally evict squatters with no notice whatsoever by saying the flat is pre-allocated. By lowering the number of offers from 3 flats to 1 estate & without the right to view the flat beforehand the homeless are getting a raw deal. If the homeless person/family doesn't except the offer they are chucked off the waiting list.



Housing(cont from page 7)

Housing officers were meant to be employed to escort families around estates but the council couldn't fill the posts. Instead the council have sent homeless families, many with little knowledge of English, around estates on their own & some squatters have had families knocking on doors asking to look around! The contempt the council has for squatters & the homeless is obvious. Making the most vulnerable people deal with any possible aggravation is a deliberate attempt by the council to play 1 group of homeless off against another.

Council figures show that there are 3,200 empty properties in Hackney with 1,400 occupied by squatters & 1,800 empty.

The councils priority in kicking out squatters whilst leaving hundreds of homes empty is designed to shift the blame for the scandal of empties from themselves onto the squatters; who are being blamed for 'jumping the queue,' taking other peoples homes & keeping flats empty!

The council aren't even keeping to their own rules as it was stated in their own report that 'squatters believed to be potentially in priority need will be asked to complete a special form in order to be assessed under the 1985 Housing Act.' This hasn't happened with families & people who fall under priority need being evicted, sometimes in dawn raids backed by police.

Only then do the council recognise them as homeless, putting them into bed & breakfast or temporary accomodation. There have been instances of licences being given to certain families but this is arbitrary & at the discretion of individual housing offices/officers, leaving the system open to abuse (nod & a wink, know what I mean!)

There is already opposition to the evictions from tenants & squatters on some estates & Hackney Squatters Aid is providing a council wide focus for action. It now appears that some council workers are also beginning to see the logic of our arguments as well because on the afternoon of April 26th squatters, supported by a some local trade unionists, were able to persuade UCATT members to down tools & refuse to carry out the clearing of flats previously occupied by squatters.

The result was a motion passed by the Joint Shop Stewards Committee condemning the councils use of PIO's & refusing to help with evictions until there's a proper initiative to fill the emptys. This is the key to the fight as without the support of council workers - both white & blue collar - the councils plans would collapse.

With the council shoving the homeless into run down properties, without doing any repairs to bring them up to standard, the entire housing stock is being further run down. DLO workers should be doing what they do best, providing a decent repair service for tenants & bringing back empty properties to the housing pool, not employed as 'furniture removals', clearing flats of squatters property. This is a housing issue which affects all council workers & needs their urgent support to stop all evictions until all the emptys are filled.

Justyn, squatting with Kate & their 22 month child. Facing eviction.

I'm a successful Hackney councillor, son. What do *you* want to be when you grow up?



A WASTE OF STAFF TIME

As a result of the Director of Housing (DOH) 'squatters initiative' report in February 1991 hundreds of housing staff hours are being spent allocating & evicting, without due regard to the council's statutory responsibilities towards priority homeless.

In effect councillors have been deliberately misled by the DOH into believing the evictions would only involve those who aren't priority homeless. Council officers are being asked to take part in this disgusting exercise, incensing squatters to such an extent that District Office 2 became the scene of an occupation & protest.

More evictions were due to take place on May 15th, & we still have no provision for assessing & advising potentially homeless people except for a few 'volunteers' from Housing Emergency Service (HES) on the day. This leaves the already overworked staff at 287 Mare Street with less resources to deal with the large numbers calling at HES.

Housing workers know that time would be better spent on bringing back into use those empty properties that aren't squatted, & that funds from Central Government should be demanded for this purpose. Also the wrecking of unoccupied properties by the council to make them uninhabitable is an absolute disgrace when thousands are homeless....

Council officers are bound by policies & procedures agreed by elected Councillors, & the current practice of mass evictions goes against agreed policies. Councillors should make the DOH accountable for his actions & stop blaming the homeless for living in empty properties. Stop the evictions - homelessness isn't a crime.

Written by a council housing worker.

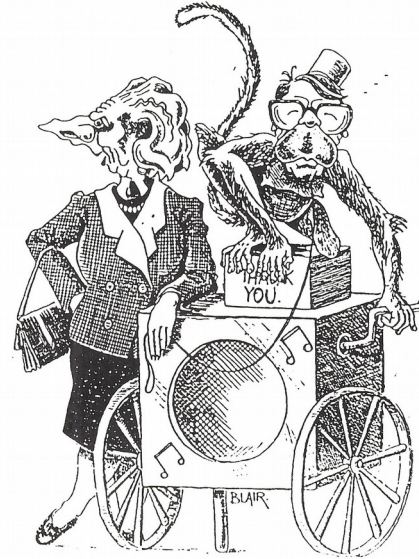
UNITE, FIGHT & STRIKE.



Last years 6 week occupation of Victorian Grove by staff, parents & local people showed that some workers are prepared to fight what is happening. These struggles must be developed & links must be made between workers in different unions & different boroughs in order to organise country wide industrial action against what is happening to Local Government jobs and services.

PAY NO POLL TAX

DIFFERENT MONKEY SAME TUNES



In the financial year 93/4 we are going to be subjected to the new 'Council Tax.' What this actually is & what it will mean to people's bills is shrouded in mystery. What it means for local government & services is much easier to see.

Under the tax bills will be calculated on the rebuilding costs of a property as determined by insurance companies. This will then be placed in 1 of 7 bands & a single bill issued to the head of the household; who will be responsible for collecting the money from the other occupiers. The bill assumes that 2 people live in the household; there will be a discount for single people.

There won't be a poll tax register; the council will have to check on the number of occupiers by referring to the electoral register or rely on people offering the information. Some people currently on 80% rebates may be ruled exempt.

However the poll tax will remain for the next 2 years, meaning more big bills, reminders, summonses, court appearances, bailiffs & the threat of imprisonment. The recently announced sweeping £140 cut in bills is now known to be a dishonest bribe. Those who used to pay rates or were getting a rebate may not be get all the £140. Does anyone seriously believe that Wandsworth has a 'minus' poll tax - that they now give you 10 pence when you go swimming or walk across a park!

Continuous under-funding from the Tories has meant that councils have never had sufficient money to provide decent services. It could be argued that the poll tax has always been part of the Tories master plan to destroy local councils. Long-term under funding means that councils can't afford to provide services. They are forced into a process of collecting money at a level that is unworkable. Hackney people simply don't have £500 to pay the Poll Tax.

The fact that 16+ education is to be taken out of the hands of councils indicates that, if the trend continues, that councils will have less & less power in determining what is best for the locality.

Hackney council seems reluctant to realise the long-term implications of the poll tax. It seems happy to send bailiffs onto our streets & estates, at enormous expense, while tucked up in their offices making cuts across all aspects of local services & removing their very reason for existence. Hackney Council will go the way of the GLC & our local affairs will be under the complete control of Whitehall.

Gwen/Andrew of Victoria Anti-Poll Tax Union, personal capacity.

LET'S LINK UP TO FIGHT ALL CUTS



The latest & by no means final cuts have taken place within Hackney's voluntary sector. Amongst the T&GWU organised projects 10 members were made redundant, making a mockery of the deputy council leader, Tommy Shepherd's, statement that the cuts wouldn't mean redundancies.

The TGWU/ACTSS branch aimed to fight the cuts by linking with the Town Hall unions in fighting all cuts in jobs & services, but there were problems. Firstly, most non union voluntary groups - & some unionised - played no part once they found they were not on the 'hit list.'

Secondly, by campaigning around Mentmore Industries & Marsh Hill, instead of against all cuts, many of those threatened by cuts didn't forge links between each other. When the cuts in Mentmore & Marsh Hill were pushed through there was nothing in reserve to resist the attacks.

Thirdly, it was obvious that once strike action had been called for March 6th, many of the town hall unions didn't put in the work needed to ensure that their members took action. Indeed without the teachers the turn out would have been pathetic. Since then there has been no effort to escalate the action or to form links with other threatened council workers. This attitude will cause more defeats.

Despite the Poll Tax's demise the Tories have made it clear that attacks on councils will continue, whatever the system of local taxation. The same 'street level' resistance that developed against the Poll tax is needed to defend local government. To do this we will also have to fight many in the official union movement who did their best to ensure that the Poll Tax fight was kept off the union agendas.

As for the voluntary sector, it looks as if there will be major battles against cuts in the near future. The sector appears to be seen by the council as a soft option who hope that projects around the borough will feel isolated & that there will be no support for the sector from the town hall unions. That is why whilst we lost some of the battles this time it was important that we fought a high profile campaign against the cuts in our own sector & that we forged links with other unions.

The consequences of doing nothing is being seen with services & jobs being decimated in Haringey & Lambeth. We must break out of the 'save our bit' mentality & start having a broader outlook on how to defend local government, involving workers & users of the services. This could be expanded to link with other public services such as post, transport & health, with mass strike action being the ultimate aim.

John Lang, Hackney TGWU/ACTSS 1/477 branch secretary.

Affiliation form

This organisation believes that the local services provided by Councils have reached a crisis point due to years of government cuts in revenue support, begun under the Callaghan Labour Government, continued as a central policy issue of the Tories, & capped by the Poll Tax. Standards of service have declined, staffing levels & wages of workers have been depressed, and complete closure of services are escalating rapidly.

Although central government is ultimately to blame for this state of affairs, local Labour Councils have chosen to wait for the dubious promise of restoration of lost finance from a future Labour Government. They have not fought the cuts, but have actively collaborated with the Tories to ensure some kind of say in what gets axed. Council union leaders have played a similar role, refusing to wholeheartedly fight cuts for fear of losing a token say in how cuts are implemented.

The tactics used have been to divide & conquer - squatters against other homeless people, DLO workers against Library services, council workers against the community sector. We must unite to **fight all cuts** & recognise that those who have done the Tories dirty work - council leaders, Management & union bureaucrats - & protected themselves are the enemies of the workers, groups & service users who have borne the brunt of the cuts.

In affiliating to Hackney Against the Cuts, this organisation recognises that all areas face the same problems & agrees to sponsor a conference on the future of Local services which HATC is planning, along with a number of different organisations & union branches. We also agree to support HATC by taking copies of the bulletin to distribute/sell to all our members/users/affiliates.

We enclose affiliation/sponsorship fee of £..... (£10 organisations under/£25 over 1000 members, additional donations always welcome.) to add to the £420 already raised by HATC.

We will takecopies of the bulletin to sell.

Return to:- Hackney Against the Cuts, Box Number 1, 136 Kingsland High Street, London E8. Telephone:- 081 533 5506 (Tom or Pam) or 071 254 4815. (Mark)

FIGHT THE CUTS

The spending cuts in Strathclyde and Lothian regions are the worst ever. This has led to schools and centres being closed, redundancies of urban aid and citizens' rights workers, the tearing up of teachers' national agreements on three day cover and composite class sizes, and increased concessionary fares.

The Campaign Against Cuts and Redundancies in Lothian has already organised a one day strike and demonstration involving over 2,000 people and a conference in which health workers and community groups took part.

Strathclyde teachers are taking no-cover action, NALGO is threatening further action and pupils and parents in Cranhill and the Calton have been actively fighting school closures. **But as yet there is no coordinated fight back in Strathclyde.** For this reason the Workers City group is calling a meeting to bring together and build a broad-based Strathclyde campaign against cuts and redundancies.

WEDNESDAY 19th JUNE 7pm

DOW'S LOUNGE UPSTAIRS
Dundas St (opp. Queen St Station)

Speaker:

George Wilson from Lothian Campaign Against
Cuts and Redundancies

ALL WELCOME.

ISG VICEPRES

Sederunt Anti - Cuts Meeting

2nd July 1991

	Name	Address	Postcode	Phone number
1 ^{Large} 1	Norman Russell	340 Lincoln Ave	G13 3LP	041 959 6033
2	Margaret Connolly	12 Rousay Dr Banknock	FK4 1TB	0324 84084
3	Bill Ramsay	70 TORRISBANE ST GLASGOW G42 8PG	G42 8PG	041-423-0244
4	Susan Gordon	234 Tantallon Road	G41 3JP	041 649 8902
5	M. Dickman	61 Cecil Street	G12 8RW	339 4287
5	Billy Clark	73 Oban drive	G70 4AE	945 1180
8	EVAN SUTHERLAND	15C HILL ST.	G3 6RN.	332 7853
6	Mrs Mary Jane McConquodale	40 Mrs am Ferguson	128 Bury Road, Fife	
7	J. Kelman	244 WEST PRINCES ST.	G4	334 7383
8	TAM BURN	15C HILL ST. (OP EVAN SUTHERLAND)		
9	Jim Mackay	111 BROADHOLM ST	G22 6SN	336-7426
10	10 Alan Knotts	7E, DIVISIONAL WAY, BARRUGAD.		
11	Mark/Mick	40 188 ABERNETHY ST. IL, GLASGOW		
12	Clas Baird	St Burnbrae St. Clydebank		
13	Dore McLellan	8 Niddrie Sq.	G42	
14	Myt Murray	31 Leven St.	G41	
15	Stacie Rice	(Terry Smith/Tony Denery 5 Burleigh St.	G51	
16	Simon Bell	for Oaklands / Grangerbread 42, 95 Logan St.	G5	



STRATHCLYDE REGION BRANCH

2 FITZROY PLACE
GLASGOW
G3 7RH
041-221 7735

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO COMMUNITY EDUCATION IN YOUR AREA?

24 workers in Community Education covering Priesthill, Nitshill, Pollok, Carnwadric, Arden, Darnley, Househillwood, South Nitshill and Craigbank are on strike because 3 members of staff have been suspended for refusing to carry out work associated with redundant posts.

HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

This year 8 posts in the area were lost as a result of cuts in the Region's budget. 158 posts were cut across the region therefore proportionally you suffered a massive loss of service. The Region cut the jobs on the basis that the service offered was no longer required. However, they now want that work carried out by the remaining staff. While we were opposed to the job loss in the first place, we argue the Region can't have it both ways. If the work is needed, the jobs should have stayed.

WHAT WILL THIS MEAN TO YOU?

The Region want to disguise the effect of the cuts by getting staff to undertake the duties of 3 posts previously covering Househill Community Centre, Priesthill Out of School Service, Bonnyholm and Crookston Girls, Adult Education. All work previously undertaken by the posts cut from the establishment. Confused? There's more to come.

This work is being reallocated at the expense of the issues that are important to the community such as Women's issues, Adult Education, Health issues, After School Care.

We warned the Councillors and Education management in February that the posts should not be cut and that it would result in a loss of services to the community. In particular, we advised that the workload of the three posts they are now trying to reallocate would have a disproportionate effect on the community. They chose to ignore that warning and in May the posts disappeared.

WHY DID WE GO ON STRIKE?

As workers in the area we understand the impact the cuts will have on the local community. The work associated with the redundant posts is needed. But it would be unfair to you and to us if we took that on at the expense of other duties.

We went on strike supported by our union to highlight what the Council are trying to do in our area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING THE STRIKE?

There will be no work on:

Local Grants
October Playschemes
Youth Work - Clubs etc
Adult Education Classes
Youth Exchanges
Elderly Forums

Area Liaison Meeting
Training
Housing Issues
Local Economy Initiatives
Urban Aid

WHAT WE WANT

1. Re-instatement of our members
2. Recognition that the redundant work is redundant.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Tell your councillor to re-instate our members and ensure your services are restored.

PLEASE SUPPORT COMMUNITY EDUCATION STAFF

YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS ARE:-

Councillor William O'Rourke
Strathclyde Regional Council
Strathclyde House 1
20 India Street
Glasgow
G2 4PF

Councillor William Timoney
Strathclyde Regional Council
Strathclyde House 1
20 India Street
Glasgow
G2 4PF

Tel: 041-227 2964

Tel: 041-227 3266

The Cutting Edge

august/september 1991

Solidarity Price 10p

POLITICAL BANKRUPTCY

In a last ditch desperate attempt to enforce the Tory Poll Tax the Labour group on Lothian Regional Council have decided that people owing more than £750 in Poll Tax face being made bankrupt and having their assets frozen. Technically this means they could face having to sell their homes to pay the tax.

However when you consider that there has not even been one Warrant Sale in Scotland for non payment, it is unlikely these new powers could ever be used. Warrant Sales were only an attempt to intimidate people, not collect the Tax, likewise this new threat is purely a scare tactic. IF ANY FURTHER PROOF WERE NEEDED OF THE LABOUR GROUP'S POLITICAL BANKRUPTCY THEN SURELY THIS IS IT. STAND FIRM - DON'T PAY THE TORY POLL TAX.



INSIDE

- SUMMARY OF CUTS
- PENSIONERS' POLL TAX BOYCOTT
- POVERTY IN LOTHIAN
- SHOP STEWARDS' CONFERENCE
- CLEANSING CUTS
- A PRIVATE AFFAIR AT MONKTON HALL

EXCLUSIVE

not even take account of the massive residual deficit being fed into next years figures due to the poll tax, i.e. 25% non payment in 1990/91 and possibly double that this year.

A LINE WE WILL NOT CROSS

"This far and no further." That was the message from Lothian Labour Leader Keith Geddes when he addressed a special meeting of Labour Party members, called to discuss the budget crisis."

So says "Lothian Labour News" the newsheet of Lothian Region Labour Party. However C.R.A.C. can exclusively reveal that the Director of Finance for Lothian Region, David Chynoweth has drawn up budget plans to deal with next years Poll Tax capping. The leaked document states "it must be assumed that Lothian will be required to limit the budget increase from the 1991/92 revised base to less than the level of inflation." In real terms this is equivalent to a further cut of "almost £12.5 million at current prices"

The document instructs Department Directors to 'produce base budgets for 1992/93 at September 1990 prices', together with their proposals on how the gap between this base budget and their particular service target might be bridged." In other words how to make cuts.

TOTALLY MEANINGLESS

The document will be put to the Labour group "policy forum" for formal ratification this month.

In view of Keith Geddes's "this far and no further" line in Lothian Labour News you might expect the Labour Group to throw out these proposals which were passed by the Chief Executives Management Group on 24th of June. You might expect it but you would be wrong, because the article goes on to explain that the Labour Group will ensure "statutory services" are provided for e.g. the fire brigade and police service. This is totally meaningless. The council have to provide these services by Law anyway. In reality it means such "thrills" like nursery and community education and services to the elderly and disabled being hammered. The plans for Poll Tax capping do

Our message to the Labour Group is clear, the TORIES are responsible for the crisis facing local government, THEY are the ones who brought in an unjust and uncollectable tax, THEY are the ones who should be fought.

COUNCILLOR'S CHOICE

The Labour Group faced a clear choice, to continue making cuts or stand with the people they are supposed to represent. Unfortunately they chose to make the cuts.



By a NUPE shop-steward

"REFUSE" AND RESIST

Following the Compulsory Competitive Tendering exercise carried out by Edinburgh District Cleansing Dept., to return in-house the Refuse Collection exercise, it has become apparent only a week into the contract that the workforce is facing cuts of up to 25% in manning levels and a massive increase in workload as well as increased hours. The results of the cuts can already be seen on the streets of Edinburgh, with refuse lying on the streets uncollected. Many temporary workers are due to be paid off at the end of July and this will lead to a deterioration in the service.

IN-HOUSE = SHITEHOUSE

During negotiations for the start of the contract, stewards of NUPE and the TGWU were told manning levels would be more or less unaltered and this was one of the reasons the management package was accepted by the workforce.

There have already been incidents between members of the public and the workforce as the bin workers have been told by management that all refuse must be presented at the front gate and not to go into gardens or stairways to collect. Unfortunately many members of the public have not been told of this. Management have made things worse by telling the public that we would go into

gardens to collect, a complete U-turn in policy which leaves refuse collectors to take the flak.

THE JOB SLAUGHTER

As far as Edinburgh bin workers are concerned, their sympathies lie not with Labour Councils who try to implement Tory policies on the Poll Tax or Privatisation, but with their counterparts in Liverpool facing the jobs slaughter being carried out by the new realists.

There have already been incidents of resistance to management dictat on the bins and undoubtedly there will be more as the mood of resentment grows.

BOTTOM OF THE CLASS?

LOTHIAN REGIONAL COUNCIL ANNOUNCE CUTS IN COMMUNITY EDUCATION

At its best community education offers the potential for working class folk to gain access to useful knowledge and autonomous creative activity. In Lothian thousands of folk irrespective of age or financial circumstance participate in a range of classes, projects and clubs. The cuts that Lothian Region Council have proposed are to reduce supplies, repairs, grants to groups, restricted use of premises, part time staff cuts (who run the majority of groups) and a freeze on posts that become vacant. The "saving" is £250,000. The workers most effected will be the lowest paid i.e. janitorial, administrative and part time workers.

If you are involved in community education, as part of the ancillary staff, as an education worker, or as a centre user, why not send a representative to the campaign meetings, and also discuss the effects and implications of the cuts at your management committee meetings. Those who are the lowest paid get stung in the workplace through inequitable taxes; then when they resist they get blamed for the cuts in services.

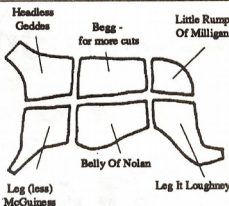
NOT POWERLESS!

We are not powerless objects; If trade unionists, workers, and community organisations stand together we can say no to the cuts.

REAL PARTICIPATION

If the campaign against the cuts is to be successful it needs the people who are using the services to become involved. We know that nonpayment of the poll tax is not the reason for the redundancies and cuts; but the poll

tax itself was the tool to bring about the cuts. In the same way as its policy towards the Health service and mainstream education, the Government attacks those on the lowest income, the same people who can't afford to pay the poll tax rely on well resourced community centres, and a well run and imaginative service.



The Choice Cuts Column

POLL TAX BOYCOTT ON THE BUSES

"If we get a bad autumn and winter, I fear there are going to be a lot of deaths. Buses are going to be empty and what is coming through to me from a good number of pensioners is no free buss pass—no poll tax"

Tom Mellors - President of Edinburgh Scottish Old Age Pensioners Association

(Source: Evening News)

POVERTY IN LOTHIAN

On the same day that Dumfries and Galloway introduced concessionary travel for the elderly and disabled, Lothian Region decided to scrap it. The fact that 20% of children in Lothian live in a family which receives Income Support and 40% of pensioners only have a basic pension to live on (worse figures than the Borders) holds no sway with Secretary of State Ian Lang. His completely discretionary powers are being used to vindictively oppress the poor in Lothian and the Labour Group are doing nothing about it.

COUNT US OUT?

Nationally, NALGO have rejected the governments derisory pay offer of 6.4%. Not surprising when 40% of their members earn below the European decency threshold. Delegates have voted for 10 days strike in conjunction with all out strike action in selected areas. Unfortunately the full-time trade union officials only see this as an opportunity to chase a shoddy deal with an increasingly belligerent management. This has been made easier for them in Edinburgh which was the only branch in the nation to accept the crappy pay offer to begin with. Whose got egged faces then?

REGIONAL RACISM

3rd August: A successful rally against racism was held at the Mound. One of the many important issues raised was the loss of Lothian's one and only Race & Immigration Advice Worker due to the purely political decision to close the Citizens Rights Office. For more information about the campaign against racism write to: LCAR, PO Box 474, Edinburgh, EH11 2TQ.

Any news on the cuts or suggestions for "The Cutting Edge". Please phone 031 - 557 0718

BUS PASS DEMO - 29TH AUGUST, ASSEMBLE 10AM, PARLIAMENT SQUARE

NEW BUS FARES

As we report on this page, packed meetingshundreds-strong have denounced the abolition of the free bus passes.

- DON'T PAY!

Symbolic protest and petitions will not be enough to win this fight.

The Campaign Against Redundancies and Cuts urges a collective mass refusal to pay the new 30p fare.

By going on the bus, showing their pass and travelling free as normal, bus pass holders can make the new charges unworkable. Pass holders could travel in groups to back each other up. We appeal to bus drivers to support this action - the new charges threaten them with redundancies through a reduction in passengers.

Mass non-payment is defeating the poll tax. Now people power can beat the cuts. CAN'T PAY WON'T PAY!..

MINER INCIDENT



Plucky C.R.A.C. activists negotiate a prime site for their banner at the Miners Gala

INTERESTING FACTS

No 1. The theme of the Gala was the campaign to re-open Monktonhall Colliery backed by N.U.M. Scotland and Lothian Regional Council.

No 2. The privately run pit would offer much lower wages than was the case under British Coal.

No 3. "Ministers have told British Coal chairman Neil Clarke that such a move could provide the blueprint

for the privatisation of the industry if the Tories win the next election. And a successful pit staffed by N.U.M. members operating a "flexible" system for a private operator could be a major asset in persuading miners to give up "outdated agreements". (Source: Political Correspondent, Evening News)

QUESTION

Whose side is Labour on????

SAVE THE FREE BUS PASSES!



"Get in the streets and fight!" This was one of many angry appeals made at a packed Lothian Rights Group rally against the withdrawal of free bus passes. 200 people with learning difficulties crammed into a room at Meadowbank stadium on 16 July to protest at the imposition of a 30p per journey bus fare and a new 50p per meal charge in their Centres.

Dozens of speakers described the hardship these cuts would cause. Without the free Bus passes they will not be able to travel to their Centres to visit friends. The abolition of free meals would cut into their already low income.

Several calls were made for a demonstration through Princes St., together with the pensioners also hit by the bus pass cut. Applause greeted a pledge of solidarity and a proposal to refuse to pay the new bus fares by a speaker from the Campaign Against Redundancies and Cuts

See article below for more information. Further Details from **SAVE THE FREE BUS PASSES**, c/o John Whyte at Contact Point Users Group., C/O BARONY HOUSING ASSOC. 67 York Place, Edin. Tel: 031 557 3239 Tuesday or Thursday 10.30 - 4pm.

M E E T I N G C O N D E M N S B U S C U T S

140 people crammed into Tollcross Community Centre on 18 July to protest at the removal of free bus passes. The meeting, organised by the Contact Point Users Group, decided to hold a demonstration to demand the free bus passes be saved.

It is important that the demo, and this whole struggle, is run by the bus pass holders directly affected - and not hijacked by the Labour councillors present who want to divert the anger into symbolic and futile gestures against the Scottish Office.

Cutting Back

AMNESTY SHOP STEWARD

Collection of Scotland's £500 m Poll Tax debt is shambolic, the money collected by recovery procedures being less than the cost of collecting it, but there are political reasons behind councils decisions to continue throwing good money after bad. They must show that mass non payment **makes people suffer**. Labour councils tell us that they don't victimise "the poor" however the reality is that in Wester Hailes, for instance Lothian Regions Sheriffs Officers are deliberately "soft targeting" older, single woman, irrespective of income, while better off non payers in nearby Juniper Green, Baberton and Currie have not even been visited.

The non payment campaign should highlight this curious contradiction. In Pentlands, S.N.P. anti poll tax activists have found that there is still a significant number of people in the "can pay wont pay" category who, in spite of my Party's desertion of them, still see themselves as part of a "human shield". Meanwhile Labour is touting the idea that 75% of non payers can't afford to pay and is calling for an amnesty for this group only. In fact this figure relates only to those on benefit but not to the large number of people on low pay. It would of course be impossible to calculate the real figures, as the poll tax itself takes no account of income, and of course Lothian Region which can arrest only a derisory number of wages, would be unable to make any relevant assessment of low waged non payers.

It is clear therefore, that total amnesty is the only acceptable solution. The Tories will say "where will the money come from?". They did not say this when they wrote off £15,000 million of debts in preparing industries for privatisation. Anyway we can always ask non payers who feel they can afford it to donate their written off debt to their Regional Council.

After all, if it is good enough for the Royal Family then it is good enough for the rest of us.

Stewart Dredge
Organiser
Pentlands SNP

Workers from a number of different trade unions are raising a call for a joint shop stewards conference which will reflect the views and interests of all workers dependent on the councils policies. It is a move which is slowly gaining strength and support from stewards committees and union branches.

The two rounds of cuts so far this year have bitten deep into services. With redundancies amongst the voluntary sector and other workers not having their temporary contracts renewed. The conditions of work for many others have greatly worsened, through composite classes and the threat of redeployment.

No one is in favour of the cuts and there is real anger amongst whole groups of the workforce against them. That was made plain on the 8th of May when several

thousand N.A.L.G.O. members and others came out on strike for the day. Since then the poll tax capping has been announced and the anger and concern has grown. But divided into different workplaces and sectors no group feels strong enough to take on the cuts and force their reversal. The official trade unions seem intent on fighting their own corners and the Labour group have been able to divide one against the other, throwing at most a sop or two to diminish the opposition.

A shop stewards conference can bring together the experience of workers on the shop floor from different areas. It can show that the anger is wide spread and that there is a mood to challenge the passive acceptance of the cuts. It can plan a campaign which can force the Labour group to back down and the Tories to cough up.

MODEL RESOLUTION

This union branch/ shop stewards committee etc. condemns the Labour controlled Lothian Regional Council for implementing Tory cuts, and calls for the immediate withdrawal of the decision to cut a total of £38.5 million from the Council budget.

In support of this position this union branch/ shop stewards committee calls on the union's Regional Committee to:

(a) Work alongside other unions in organising a joint rank and file conference to build the fightback against the cuts.

(b) To link up with other unions to organise joint strike action against all cuts.

(c) Finally, this union branch/ shop stewards agrees to affiliate to the Lothian Campaign Against Redundancies and Cuts.

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST REDUNDANCIES AND CUTS MEETS
EVERY SECOND MONDAY AT THE:
UNEMPLOYED WORKERS CENTRE,
103 BROUGHTON STREET, EDIN., TEL: 031 - 557 0718.

Benefit for CRAC and the Centre

Friday 16th August
8 till late
Quiz night/disco/bar
at 103 Broughton Street
Tickets £3/£1



P&P by CRAC.
Production Team: Dave Donohoe, Rhona
Cameron, Brian McGrail and George
Wilson. c/o EUWC.
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Edinburgh Unemployed Workers Centre

For claimants advice, meeting space,
photo library, computer and photography
courses, print jobs. Open Mondays to
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The Centre that's not
going to close

AFFILIATION / MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____
Address: _____
Organisation: _____

Fees: Individuals £2.00 (£1.00 concessions) • Community Organisations
£5.00 • Union Branches and Political Organisations £10.00

THE - CUTS - TOGETHER WE CAN CRAC 'EM

SCOTTISH ANTI-POLL TAX ACTION

EXTENDING THE CAMPAIGN

A conference called by anti-poll tax groups to discuss how to build on the anti-poll tax campaign and link with others fighting cuts in local government services.

JAMES GILLESPIE'S HIGH SCHOOL

Warrender Park Road

Marchmont

EDINBURGH

(see map on reverse)

SATURDAY, MAY 11 10am to 6pm

Evening social at the Nova pub

10.00 Registration

10.30-12.30 Plenary session, with speakers on the poll tax/council tax, education, the health service, the voluntary service sector, gay and lesbian rights; and writer James Kelman.

12.30-1.30 Lunch

1.30-3.30 Workshops and report-backs

3.30-4.00 Tea

4.00-5.30 Final session (plenary): where we go from here

Creche available.

Lunch provided.

Workshops include: Why should the anti-poll tax and anti-cuts campaigns unite?

Politics after the Poll Tax

Extending resistance in the communities

Communities need a voice ('Refuse & Resist' and 'Workers City' on campaigning newspapers)

This is the fourth forum organised by Scottish Anti-Poll Tax Action. This time we are giving more emphasis to plenary sessions to allow maximum discussion around a range of different experiences.

Waged: £2 Unwaged: £1

Please register by telephoning 031-229 9552

TOTTENHAM AGAINST THE POLL TAX

Don't Register/Don't Collect/Don't Pay

c/o 72 West-Green Rd, N15
— (802 9804 - messages

RE: NATIONAL ANTI-POLL TAX CONFERENCE , AUTUMN

dear friends,

a call is going out for a national APT conference in the autumn to bring together groups ^{from every} corner of the country to discuss the practical tasks and way forward for the movement.

At a time when we've won a resounding victory by forcing the Government to scrap the Poll Tax and its principles, to admit that it is uncollectable and to abandon a Register as unworkable, we all know that the struggle continues. Millions still face threats, courts, bailiffs and possible jail, and our response must be not only to continue our basic protests and solidarity work, but also to demand A TOTAL AMNESTY FOR ALL NON-PAYERS - all debts to be written off now!

Savage cuts in local services continue. We need to demand the Poll Tax is scrapped immediately, not 1993/4 or whenever. And finally, lets remember those imprisoned (for up to 4 YEARS) for defending our demonstrations - free them now!

THE CONFERENCE

What is needed is a conference for discussion, sharing ideas and experiences, and strengthening the flow of information and co-operation throughout the movement. It will be organised democratically by local groups and federations, with open Planning Meetings where the agenda and all other relevant decisions will be taken.

The idea came from the 3D national APT communications network which has held a number of national Activists Meetings and produced 8 issues of a National Bulletin since 1989.

At this stage we're asking all organisations to:

1. Put their name to the conference, in support
2. Propose: Items for the agenda, appropriate time, venue, format etc
3. Try and send a delegate to the first Planning Meeting.

The following organisations have already agreed to back the Conference:

- Tottenham APT
- S.W.England APT Regional Federation
- Trafalgar Square Defendants' Campaign
- Haringey APTU Fed
- 3D Bulletin Collective
- London Activists Forum/Fight The Poll Tax Bltn

On April 28th there is a Northern APT Conference in York, and on May 11th the 3rd Scots APT Forum. Both will be discussing backing the National Conference.

Please discuss and return the slip below. Please attend the Planning Meeting if possible.

in solidarity,

Dave Morris, Tottenham APT

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OPEN PLANNING MEETING - SUNDAY 26th MAY 2 - 6pm
At: Leeds Trades Club, Saville Mount, Leeds 6. ph Ian 0532 623822

Stop Press: Declan McGuire and Cornelius Haarhoorn got sent down for 14 days for non-payment - by Trafford Council, Manchester. Held in Huddersfield Main Police HQ, Custody area, Castlegate, Huddersfield HD12 (Letters welcome!)
DEMO: Sat 27th APR. Noon. Mandela Crnr, City Centre, Huddsfd. (Kirklees Fed).

Stop Press 2: 70 people demonstrated at Wandsworth jail on Sat 13th April in support of 13 APT prisoners (TSDC). Another demo, May 1st, 10am Scrubs...

We support the holding of a National APT Conference

NAME OF GROUP.....Ph.....

ADDRESS.....

Suggestions for Agenda:

.....

Suggestions for venue.....other thoughts.....

Return To: Ian Greaves, Leeds APT Fed, Trades Club, Saville Mt, Leeds 6

37 Stanley Road
Eccles
M30 7HL
15/10/91

Dear Jim,

Sorry to have delayed writing to you before now but things have been very hectic.

I remember you asked about the Wrexham Voice, the person is Mark Jones and can be written to at: PO BOX 462, Rhyl, Clywd, LL18 1HQ. Another two broadsheets that I know of are: Hackney Against the Cuts and Somerset Clarion. The name reminds me of the post war papers like Port Workers Clarion which was issued by the rank and file dockers from Birkenhead. The address of the Somerset Clarion is Dave Chapple, 4 Gordon Terrace, Bridgewater, Somerset.

I read the "Keelie" (what does the word mean?) I thought it was very lively. I thought of doing a piece for the Socialist Voice taking extracts from various broadsheets. Do you mind if I take some of the material from yours and use one of the cartoons? I will of course attribute the material to the "Keelie" with its contact address. Do you get many workers writing for it? Obviously you have contacts in the right places. It appears to me sharper than workers would express themselves at this stage but then I don't live in Glasgow.

Talking about the Clarion reminds me that an old comrade of ours Bill Hunter wrote a book on the history of the dock worker's struggle, the blue union etc. We never had the time to get it published. Would you like to read it and, besides making an critical suggestions, suggest any way we could publish it?

Bill is now 71 and cannot easily get around but he is still fighting and taking a very active theoretical and practical part in our international. In November he will be travelling up to see his son who lives in Edinburgh with his wife. I told him about our discussions and he asked if there was a possibility of meeting you when he goes up to Scotland.

By the way your name is better known to others than the two ignorants (myself and Celia). In a left wing Hackney bookshop your short stories sell well and in the left wing book shop in Manchester they tell me they always keep a supply of your books.

One of the people helping us organise the Anti-Poll Tax conference works at "Frontline Books" and was interested in knowing more about "Workers City", she was also interested to know if there was any chance you could spend a few hours signing books in the shop. If you want to talk directly to her: Maeve O'Connor, 32 Finney Drive, Manchester M21; 061 881 0274.

I hope you and "Workers City" can make the conference on the 26th and 26th October. As far as we can tell things are going well for the conference. If you are coming and want accommodation for the night please let us know.

We both look forward to hearing from you and seeing you.

All the best to yourself, Workers City and the "Keelie"

Martin

PS also enclose some of our publication